(b) if so, what are the details of such loans stating name of the nationalised banks advancing the loan amount of loan advanced to each of the above said newspaper groups;

(c) whether RBI guidelines had been adhered to, what is the progress in the matter of realising these loans from the concerned newspaper groups till date stating the action, if any, taken to realise these debts; and

(d) if no, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available and permissible under the Rnles.

Evasion of Central Excise in South Gujarat

2635. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SMT. KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in the Indian Express dated the 23rd July, 1993 regarding flourishing racket in the evasion of Octroi and Central Excise in South Gujarat in connivance with certain official agencies; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by the Government in the matter.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHIR M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes Sir. A new item has appeared in the Indian Express dated 23rd July, 1993 about evasion of duty of excise and octroi.

(b) So far as evasion of excise duty is concerned Textiles have already been identified as one of the evasion prone commodities. A number of cases of Central Excise duty evasion have been detected against textile processors by the Directorate General of Anti-evasion as well as by the concerned Collectorates. Surveillance has been stepped up on the manufacturers suspected to be indulging in evasion of duty of excise on the basis of intelligence gathered.

Brochure on Pay and Allowance of Government Employees

2636. DR SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pay Research Unit in the Department of Expenditure has completed its work for bringing out the 14th issue of the Brochure on Pay and Allowances of Central Government Civilian employees;

(b) if so, by when will it be published;

(c) if not, what is the total expenditure on pay and allowances and number of Central Government's Civilian employees as reported in the 13th Brochure; and

(d) what steps are being taken to curb the increasing expenditure on pay and allowances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHIR M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) The work for bringing out the 14th issue of Brochure on Pay and Allowances of Central Government employees is in progress and the Brochure is likely to be published by the end of October, 1993.

(c) As reported in the 13th Brochure, the number of Central Government Civilian employees (regular) was 37.48 lakhs as on 31st March, 1989 and the expenditure on Pay and Allowances of Central Government Civilian employees (regular) was Rs. 9687.99 crores in 1990-91.

(d) Instructions have been issued to all Ministries|Departments to reduce their staff strength by at least 10 per cent. Orders have also been issued that the posts remaining unfilled for more than one year should be abolished.

Adjustment of SEBs Dues

2637. DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the State Electricity Boards whose dues to the CPSU are being adjusted from their Central assistance to States;

(b) whether the Finance Commission had given a specific authority to do such a thing;

(c) if not, under what authority this is being done; and

(d) whether the States have protested this move, if so, what are the names of the States which have protested this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Overdues of all the 25 State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/State Governments to the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) are being adjusted from the Central plan assistance of the States.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The adjustment is being made in persuance to the decisions taken by the Central Government on 8.6.1990 and 10.8.1992 regarding adjustment of SEBs dues to CPSUs against Central Plan assistance of the States.

(d) Yes, Sir. Some of the State Governments namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have represented against the adjustment of SEBs dues to CPSUs against Central plan assistance of the States.

RBI guidelines for relief in areas *affected by Natural Calamities*

2638. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India propose to review the general guidelines for relief measures to be followed by banks in areas affected by natural calamities issued by RBI on 2nd August, 1984;

(b) if so, what are the review measures contemplated;

(c) if not, what are the reasons for not reviewing the guideines; and

(d) what are the exact guidelines which presently exist?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FNANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MININSTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY RFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (d) The review of standing guidelines for relief measures to be followed by banks in areas affected by natural calamities is a continuous process. Amendments to the guidelines are made whenever the situation so warrants. Suggestions received in this regard are examined and amendments made, where considered necessary. The guidelines for relief to persons affected by natural calamities, are applicable in the event of a drought, flood,, cyclone, tidal waves and other natural calamities. On